

But I urge my colleagues now, let's get something done. The sooner we act, the greater chance we have of preventing another senseless mass shooting in America. Let's break this cycle of gun violence, and let's end the days when parents, doctors, and children have to come to the U.S. Capitol in order to beg their elected representatives to take action.

JANUARY 6 HEARINGS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now, on FOX News and January 6.

Tomorrow evening, the House Select Committee will hold its first public hearings on the insurrection of January 6. It will be a watershed moment for what has now been a 10-month investigation to uncover the truth of what happened on that terrible, terrible day in our Nation's history.

The American people need to see January 6 for what it was—a deliberate, organized, and violent attempt to reverse a free and fair election. It was a profane and grotesque assault upon American democracy. Worst of all, it was part of a larger effort from the hard right to erode our constitutional order from within.

Just a couple of days ago, someone was arrested who said he was within 20 feet of me and was trying to get me as we left this Chamber.

These hearings will be essential viewing. They are a direct look into the dark soul of the hard right, and every single American needs to know the truth of what happened that day.

Every major broadcast and cable network will cover these proceedings live—every network except one, that is: FOX News.

In one of the most cowardly journalistic decisions in modern memory, FOX News, one of main amplifiers of the Big Lie about January 6 and about the election, has stated they will not broadcast Thursday's hearing.

After giving the likes of Tucker Carlson a blank check to spread conspiracy theories and White supremacist views night after night, it is beyond repugnant that FOX News refuses to cover the investigation into the deadliest attack on our democracy in modern history.

It is a disgusting and treacherous decision, one that will gravely harm our democracy, one that deliberately will conceal the truth from a large portion of the viewing public.

Let me say it once again. FOX's decision not to air live proceedings on January 6 is cowardly and is tantamount to hiding the truth from the American people.

FOX News has an obligation to report the facts of the January 6 investigation so their viewers can learn the truth, especially after FOX News was one of the main propagators of so many of the Big Lies.

Are they a real news station? They don't seem to be. I hope they reverse this awful decision.

HONORING OUR PACT ACT OF 2021

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, finally, on the PACT Act, today, the Senate is going to adopt a motion to proceed to Honoring our PACT Act, and my colleague from Montana, chair of our Veterans' Committee, who has worked so hard on this, will speak about that shortly, in a moment.

The PACT Act is one of the most important veteran healthcare bills this Chamber has considered in decades. Yesterday, the Senate invoked cloture on the motion to proceed by a whopping 86 votes.

Three and a half million veterans—three and a half million—have been likely exposed to toxic chemicals in the line of duty since 2001. Over the years, these toxic exposures have led to terrible healthcare complications that have cut too many lives short and burdened far too many of our Nation's heroes.

Tragically, many of our Nation's veterans have been unable to access the care they need because of outdated VA rules that dictate eligibility for benefits. The PACT Act would fix that for some of the biggest reforms to the VA ever.

It is a no-brainer to move forward on a bill to take care of veterans who have been exposed to toxins in the line of duty. We cannot let dilatory or destructive amendments stand in the way of the need of our veterans' dire and crucial needs.

Again, last night's vote was overwhelmingly bipartisan. There is no reason for us not to pass this important, vital, sensible bill A-S-A-P. Every one of us in this Chamber has heard from a military servicemember who is struggling to afford quality healthcare, and this is one of the best steps the Senate can take to improve the lives of those who have given their all for our country.

Veterans service organizations across the country are urging the Senate to act, so let's get this bill passed with the same bipartisan good will that has characterized the negotiations to date.

I yield the floor.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

HONORING OUR PROMISE TO ADDRESS COMPREHENSIVE TOXICS ACT OF 2021—MOTION TO PROCEED—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 3967, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to H.R. 3967, a bill to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

HONORING OUR PROMISE TO ADDRESS COMPREHENSIVE TOXICS ACT OF 2021

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3967) to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

AMENDMENT NO. 5051

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.)

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 5051.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Montana [Mr. TESTER] proposes an amendment numbered 5051.

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask to dispense with any further reading of the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of June 7, 2022, under "Text of Amendments.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

AMENDMENT NO. 5065 TO AMENDMENT NO. 5051

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 5065.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] proposes an amendment numbered 5065 to amendment No. 5051.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask to dispense with further reading of the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To add an effective date)

At the end add the following:

SEC. ____ . EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 1 day after the date of enactment of this Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, the Senate is on the verge of honoring our commitment to our country's toxic-exposed veterans and their families through the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our PACT Act.

Look, generation after generation of veterans have been exposed to toxic substances during their time in service, dating all the way back to World War I and every conflict since then.

And they have returned only to face yet another battle here at home when

they seek care and benefits because of the impact of toxic exposure on their lives.

In the worst care scenarios, folks are paying the price with their lives—veterans and heroes like Sergeant First Class Robinson, for whom this bill is named after.

Look, we have made some incredible advances as a country over our history when it comes to taking care of our servicemembers both in-theater and after they get back home. The survival on the battlefield now compared to 50 years ago has been improved amazingly.

Prosthetics—we have done some amazing work with prosthetics for the folks who have come back who are missing limbs. We have been working hard on mental health. We are not where we need to be, but we are making some advances. We have got more stuff to do, particularly in the area of transition and implementation of alternate forms of mental healthcare.

But the fact is, with toxic exposure, we have never done a good job. This bill will put the VA and put this Nation on the right track to addressing decades of inaction and failure by our government—by us—to pay for the cost of the war.

So what does it do? It expands eligibility—expands eligibility—for VA healthcare to more than 3½ million combat veterans exposed to burn pits since 9/11.

It supports our post-9/11 and Vietnam-era veterans by removing the burden of proof for 23 presumptive conditions caused by toxic exposure, from cancers to lung diseases.

It establishes a framework for the establishment of future presumptions of service connection related to toxic exposure. So why is this important? Well, you know how the Senate works. Oftentimes, it takes a long time to get much done, and it has taken an act of Congress—literally, an act of Congress—to get these presumptives approved in the past.

Now the VA is going to have a structure where they can follow the science and get these toxic exposures covered, the ones that are going to happen in the future—and, unfortunately, I am afraid that they will happen in the future so this structure is important.

This bill also gives the VA the tools it needs to bolster its workforce, to establish more healthcare facilities, to improve claims processing, which will better meet the immediate and future needs of every veteran that the VA serves.

I have talked about the costs. The costs are \$287 billion over 10—significant, very significant, but it is a cost of war.

Keep in mind that this substitute—because of the work that the staffs have done in a bipartisan way—is \$50 billion less than the House-passed toxic exposure bill.

So we have done our best to make sure that this bill meets the needs of

our veterans and also meets the needs of our taxpayers.

This is the right thing to do, and it is the right thing to get done today because right now our veterans are paying the cost. They are the only ones paying the cost, and they cannot afford to wait any longer.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Lisa M. Gomez, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, 6 months ago, the Washington Post published an extremely disturbing report.

According to the report, a man in his mid-20s was stopped near the house of a Supreme Court Justice carrying a weapon and burglary tools. He reportedly told police he intended to murder the Justice. Reportedly, he indicated he was angry at the decision he thinks the Court may reach in an upcoming case in light of the unconscionable leak from a few weeks back.

So this is where we are. This is where we are. If these reports are correct, it was an assassination attempt against a sitting Justice, or something close to it.

This is exactly—exactly—the kind of event that many feared that the terrible breach of the Court's rules and norms could fuel. This is exactly the kind of event that many worried the unhinged, reckless, apocalyptic rhetoric from prominent figures toward the Court going back many months and especially in recent weeks could make more likely.

This is exactly—exactly—why the Senate passed legislation very shortly after the leak to enhance the police protection for Justices and their families. This is commonsense, non-controversial legislation that passed in this Chamber—in this Chamber—unanimously.

But House Democrats have spent weeks blocking—blocking the measure that passed here unanimously related

to security for Supreme Court Justices. The House's Democrats have refused to take it up.

Now, look, that needs to change, and it needs to change right now. Right now. House Democrats must pass this bill and they need to do it today. No more fiddling around with this. They need to pass it today. They need to stop their multiweek blockade against the Supreme Court security bill and pass it before the sun sets today.

I will have more to say on this subject as the facts continue to unfold.

INFLATION

Mr. President, on a completely different matter, rising food prices have been one of the most relentless and painful aspects of the historic inflation unfolding on Democrats' watch.

One year ago, President Biden's White House bragged—bragged—that the cost of an Independence Day cook-out would be 16-cents cheaper than the year before. Well, in the past year food prices have jumped more than 9 percent. So that same spread won't be cents cheaper, it will be dollars more expensive.

Grocery store prices have risen at their fastest rate since 1980, and at full-service restaurants, prices have jumped more in the past 12 months than any year on record. Any year on record. There has been 17 straight months of rising food prices.

So this is not a "Putin" price hike. As one of my constituents in Nancy, KY, put it a few months back, "Many people are scared that they might have to choose between eating and heating the house."

Democrats' failed policies have made it harder to feed a family in America, but the pain isn't limited to the supermarket or to the dinner table, it includes producers at every step of the supply chain.

According to the owner of Jot 'Em Down Store, which boasts the oldest lunch counter in Lexington, rising costs have come from all directions. "This year, we've been hampered by supply chain issues, rising gas prices [and] inflation . . ."

In my hometown of Louisville, the operator of one stand at the local farmers market elaborated, "The feed to feed animals has gone up. Packaging, processing has gone up. . . . Butter has gone up three times in the last 4 weeks." Our food producers are feeling the pinch.

A soybean farmer in Muhlenberg County put it this way: "I can put out two, maybe three crops in years past for what it's costing this year."

A corn grower in Christian County says rising prices are "crippling family farms like mine."

Of course, Kentucky farmers are not alone. Across America, farm country has been absolutely hammered on Democrats' watch. And by the Biden administration's own data, farm production expenses from animal feed to diesel fuel are climbing even higher this year than last year.